

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 05683 131502Z

46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

PA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 SAJ-01 ITC-01 L-03 /076 W

----- 116309

O R 131406Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3249

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND PARTIALLY RATIONS SUGAR: ADDITIONAL DETAILS
AND COMMENTS

REF: WARSAW 5678

1. THE NEW RATIONING MEASURE STIPULATES THAT SOCIALIZED
SECTOR WORKERS WILL RECEIVE RATION CARDS ENTITLING THEM
AND THEIR ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS TO PURCHASE ONE KILOGRAM
OF SUGAR PER MONTH AT A PRICE OF 10.5 ZLOTYS PER KILOGRAM.
THERE ARE OTHER ALLOTMENTS TO TAKE CARE OF OTHER CATEGORIES
OF PERSONS. IN PARTICULAR, PRIVATE FARMERS WHO SELL MEAT
OR OTHER GOODS TO THE STATE WILL RECEIVE THE SAME
RATION AS THOSE WHO WORK IN THE SOCIALIZED SECTOR.
THOSE PRIVATE FARMERS, HOWEVER, WHO DO NOT SELL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 05683 131502Z

THEIR PRODUCTS TO THE STATE WILL RECEIVE ONLY A

RATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN UNDER 14. SUGAR PRICED AT 26 ZLOTYS PER KILOGRAM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OUTSIDE THE RATION SYSTEM.

2. THE SENIOR AIDE TO THE POLISH AGRICULTURE MINISTER TOLD US AUGUST 13 THAT THE RATIONING WOULD LAST ONLY UNTIL THE START OF THE BEET SUGAR HARVEST IN MID-SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. HE ASSERTED FURTHER THAT THE RATIONING WAS NECESSITATED BY THE ALMOST "WAR-TIME" MENTALITY NOW PREVALENT; THIS IS THE PRODUCT OF SCARCITY AND THE THREAT OF HIGHER PRICES.

3. COMMENT: IN THE FACE OF THE PUBLIC'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES OF PLENTIFUL SUPPLIES, POLISH AUTHORITIES WERE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA. THEY HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM RATIONING IN THE PAST BECAUSE MEMORIES OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION REMAIN FRESH IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT WISDED TO BE ASSOCIATED IN THE PUBLIC MIND WITH THE REPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE AND CONDITIONS OF THAT PERIOD. HOWEVER, NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE PROMISED ALLEVIATION OF PRESSURE ON EXISTING SUGAR STOCKS. THE NEW SCHEME CANNOT BUT HELP TO ADD FUEL TO EXISTING AND CONTINUING PUBLIC RESENTMENT OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO SUPPLY DESIRABLE GOODS FOR THE CONSUMER MARKET.

4. THE PARTIAL RATIONING SCHEME WAS ALSO APPARENTLY DESIGNED WITH AN EYE ON THE EXPORT MARKET. BECAUSE SUGAR IS A GOOD HARD CURRENCY EARNER, THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY FEARED THAT EXCESSIVE DOMESTIC PURCHASES WOULD EVENTUALLY CUT INTO STOCKS SLATED FOR EXPORT. GIVEN POLAND'S PRESENT LEVEL OF INDEBTEDNESS AND INABILITY TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE, WARSAW CANNOT AFFORD TO CURB ANY OF ITS HARD CURRENCY EXPORTS.

5. INCIDENTALLY, THE PUBLIC MAY DULY NOTE THAT THE 26 ZLOTYS PER KILOGRAM PRICE ANNOUNCED FOR NON-COUPON PURCHASES OF SUGAR IS SIMILAR TO THE PROJECTED-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WARSAW 05683 131502Z

AND LATER RESCINDED-PRICE ANNOUNCED BY PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ IN JUNE. THIS RATIONING SCHEME COULD THUS BE SEEN AS ANOTHER PLOY BY THE AUTHORITIES TO INCREASE PRICES OF SELECTED FOOD ITEMS WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE PROMISED PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITH THE POPULACE.
BROWN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, SUGAR, RATIONING, ECONOMIC CONSUMPTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WARSAW05683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0147
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760853/aaaabuhf.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 WARSAW 5678
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLAND PARTIALLY RATIONS SUGAR: ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND COMMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006